

REMARKS

Claims 1-10, 13-24, 27, and 28 remain in the application and claims 1, 13, 15, 18, and 27 have been amended hereby. Claims 12, 26, 29-34, 36-38, 40-47, and 49 have been cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of claims 1-7, 10, 14-21, 24, 28, 29-32, 38, 40-44, 47, and 49 under 35 USC 102(e), as being anticipated by Sato et al., and of the rejection of claims 8, 9, 22, 23, 33, 34, 45, and 46 under 35 USC 103(a), as being unpatentable over Sato et al. in view of Sugita et al.

Applicant acknowledges the Examiner's finding of Allowable Subject Matter in claims 12, 13, 26, 27, 36, and 37.

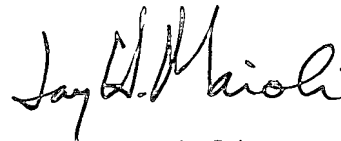
Therefore, independent claim 1 has been amended in part to recite the limitations of claim 12, and independent claim 15 has been amended in part to recite the limitations of claim 26.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that amended independent claims 1 and 15, and the claims depending therefrom, are in condition of allowance.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon has been reviewed and is not seen to show or suggest the present invention as recited in the amended claims.

An early issuance of a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
COOPER & DUNHAM LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jay H. Maioli". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "J" and "M".

Jay H. Maioli
Reg. No. 27, 213

JHM/PCF:pmc